

Message Text

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42 S

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 ARAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 AF-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /083 W

----- 050181

O R 121700Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2243

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0067

EWS11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EAID UNGA GY

SUBJ: UNGA VOTE SANCTIONS -- LOCAL REACTION

REF: GEORGETOWN 0063 (NODIS)(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GOG HAS BEGUN ANTI-U.S. PUBLICITY BARRAGE OVER ALLEGED U.S. PRESSURE ON ANGOLA AND ALLEGED THREAT OF AID CUTOFF. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL NO DIRECT PUBLIC COMMENT BY GOG ON AID CUTOFF ALLEGATION OF NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST ARTICLES. END SUMMARY.

2. GOG-OWNED CHRONICLE MORNING JAN 12 UNDER SCREAMING RED FRONT PAGE HEADLINE OF QUOTE DIGNITY OR DEATH - PM UNQUOTE CARRIED TEXT GIVEN PARA 3 REGARDING USG PRESSURE ON CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA. TEXT DEALT WITH PART OF RADIO INTERVIEW SATURDAY EVENING BY PM BURNHAM INTENDED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR TRADITIONAL NEW YEARS DAY STATEMENT. INTERVIEW AS A WHOLE (BEING REPORTED
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SEPTTEL) WAS MODERATE, BROAD RANGING, AND WAS SUBJECT

OF FACTUAL AND BALANCED LEAD ARTICLE IN CHRONICLE
JAN 11. HEADLINE OVER 30 HOURS LATER AND
EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON SMALL PORTION OF INTERVIEW
DEALING WITH ALLEGED U.S. PRESSURE WAS OBVIOUSLY
INSPIRED BY GOG AS PUBLIC REACTION TO NEW YORK TIMES
STORY RE AID CUTOFF. IT FOLLOWED OFFICIAL THUS FAR
UNPUBLICIZED QUERY (REFTEL) MADE TO AMBASSADOR BY
FONMIN WILLS AND ECON DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HOYTE SUNDAY
MORNING AT FONOFF.

3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THOUGH REPORT OF NYT ARTICLE
RE AID CUTOFF WAS CARRIED ON LOCAL RADIO EVENING
JAN 10, THERE HAS BEEN NO STORY BASED ON THAT
ARTICLE IN PRESS. HOWEVER, JAN 12 CHRONICLE
CARRIED THREE COLUMN ARTICLE ON BACK PAGE CITING
SATURDAY WASHINGTON POST STORY UNDER RED HEADLINE OF
QUOTE U.S. PLANNING TO PUT PRESSURE ON GUYANA UNQUOTE
AND QUOTING UNNAMED SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
(UNCLEAR WHETHER OFFICIAL WAS U.S. GOR GUYANESE)

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON WASHINGTON POST STORY AS
SAYING QUOTE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAVE LONG BEEN
ACCUSTOMED TO BIG STICK POLITICS UNQUOTE.

4. JAN 10 CHRONICLE CARRIED JAMAICAN DAILY
NEWS JAN 2 ARTICLE CONDEMNING U.S. CONCERN
RELAYED TO GUYANA OVER ANGOLA FLIGHTS UNDER CHRONICLE
HEADLINE OF QUOTE JAMAICAN NEWSPAPER CHARGES U.S.
ATEMPTING TO MEDDLE IN GUYANA'S FOREIGN POLICY UNQUOTE.

5. TEXT OF FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON BURNHAM INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE:

(PARA A) PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM HAS MADE IT CLEAR
THAT THE GUYANESE PEOPLE WOULD PREFER TO DIE WITH
THEIR DIGNITY RATHER THAN BOW TO PRESSURE ON THE QUESTION
OF GUYANA'S SOVEREIGNTY.

(PARA B) DISCUSSING THE ANGOLAN SITUATION AND THE
"MESSAGE" FROM THE UNITED STATES OVER THE POSSIBLE USE
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OF TIMEHRI AIRPORT BY CUBANS EN ROUTE TO ANGOLA, HE
SAID "WE ARE POOR. ONE OF THE FEW THINGS WE HAVE IS
HUMAN IDGNITY, AND WE PREFER TO DIE WITH IT."

(PARA C) ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY TRUTH IN REPORTS
CIRCULATING IN THE REST OF THE CARIBDAAN COMMUNITY
THAT GUYANA HAD GIVEN PERMISSION TO THE CUBANS TO USE
TIMETVU, HE REPLIED "WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL

REQUEST WHATSOEVER FROM THE CUBANS FOR SUCH USE OF TIMEHRI AIRPORT."

(PARA D) ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO IF SUCH A REQUEST WAS MADE, HE RESPONDED: "AS I TOLD A CERTAIN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS DELIVERING A MESSAGE TO ME: THAT IS TO ANTICIPATE THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OF GUYANA."

(PARA E) COMRADE BURNHAM WAS ASKED TO GIVE HIS REACTION TO THE "CONCERN" WHICH THE UNITED STATES EXPRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE POSSIBLE USE OF TIMEHRI BY THE CUBANS.

(PARA F) HE SAID, "THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE, OR DID HAVE KNOWLEDGE, THAT CUBAN PLANES HAVE BEEN USING BARBADOS SEAWELL AIRPORT FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WERE ABOUT TO USE PIARCO. I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF IT."

(PARA G) "THEY PERHAPS TOOK A LOOK AT THE GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THOUGHT THAT GUYANA WOULD BE A PLACE THAT COULD BE USED IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND THEY ALSO THOUGHT TO DELIVER A MESSAGE."

(PARA H) "WE GOT A MESSAGE REQUESTING US NOT TO ALLOW IT TO BE USED, AND I GAVE THE ANSWER WHICH I AM GIVING YOU:

(PARA 8) "THERE IS NO OFFICIAL REQUEST AND ANY REQUEST THAT IS MADE WOULD BE CONSIDERED AND ACTED ON. FOR ME TO SAY WHAT I WOULD DO TO A REQUEST WOULD BE QUITE WRONGLY AND QUITE IMPROPERLY BE SEEKING TO ANTICIPATE THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY BY AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, ALBEIT SMALL."

(PARA J): "BUT AS I SAID ON ANOTHER OCCASION, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I DON'T CARE TO IDENTIFY NOW, WE ARE POOR. ONE OF THE FEW THINGS WE HAVE IS HUMAN DIGNITY, AND WE PREFER TO DIE WITH IT."

(PARA K): COMRADE BURNHAM EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA. (MPLA) GOVERNMENT AFTER THE MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WHICH IS TAKING PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND.

(PARA L): HE CONFIRMED THAT GUYANA HAS SENT RICE AND SUGAR TO ANGOLA AS PART OF ITS COMMITMENT TO HELPING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ADDING: "WE FEEL OURSELVES COMPELLED TO SUPPORT THIS MOVEMENT WHICH IS WAGING OUR WAR AGAINST THE RACIST MINORITY REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND NOTHING, NO SOPHISTRY NOR ARM-TWISTING CAN HIDE THE FACT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS AN AGGRESSOR IN ANGOLA".

(PARA M): "WHETHER OR NOT SOUTH AFRICA IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANY
DIFFERENCES THERE ARE BETWEEN THE GROUPS IS ANOTHER MATTER. BUT
BY YOUR FRIENDS YOU ARE IDENTIFIED."

END QUOTE

MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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